



SECTION:	General School Administration	APPROVAL DATE:
SUBSECTION:	School Building Administration	June 4, 2001
POLICY NAME:	Appropriate Dress	LAST REVISED:
POLICY NUMBER:	R.GSA.E.18	June 4, 2001

1. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

- 1.1 Appropriate dress shall refer to student attire that is modest, neat, free of vulgarity and not associated with gang identity.
- 1.2 Dress code implies a range of approved apparel that is deemed to be appropriate dress for students. A dress code may specify in general terms approved items of clothing, including colour, that are appropriate for attendance at a specific school. It may reflect attire for a unique activity/course that the student is involved in or be modified to reflect the age and maturity of students.
- 1.3 A school uniform shall consist of a series of specific items of common dress that are to be worn by all students. A school may approach a single supplier to ensure consistency of product.

2. APPROPRIATE DRESS

- 2.1 The principal will be responsible for informing the school community of the expectation that parents, through the Catholic School Council, will decide on the standards of appropriate dress for the school.
- 2.2 The principal will invite the Catholic School Council, as representatives of the parents of the school community, to be involved in the development and implementation of the standards of appropriate dress for the school.
- 2.3 In developing the standards of appropriate dress, the Board's mission, governing values and Catholic social teachings will be reflected in the criteria established. The standards will be consistent with the principles established within the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Human Rights Code.
- 2.4 The principal will communicate the standards for appropriate dress. These standards will be communicated to all members of the school community.

3. DRESS CODE/SCHOOL UNIFORM

- 3.1 It is recommended that each secondary school adopt a mandatory school uniform policy.
- 3.2 Parents, through the Catholic School Council, may recommend the adoption of a dress code or a school uniform in an elementary school.
- 3.3 When the adoption of a dress code or a school uniform is proposed for students in an elementary school, it shall only become school policy when all parents have been informed and consulted. This consultation process must include:
 - notification to the Superintendent of Education of the proposal;

- the creation of a representative committee of parents, students, staff and to explore the implications and affordability of a dress code or school uniform and make recommendations to the Catholic School Council;
 - a general meeting of all parents explaining the proposal.
- 3.4 When a school dress code or school uniform is recommended, the principal will provide each family in the school community with information that describes the proposed dress code expectations and/or specifies the clothing required to meet the school uniform standards. In the case of a school uniform a complete analysis of costs to the parent, compulsory and optional items, proper wear and dates and time of wear must be provided.
 - 3.5 One parent from each family registered in the school will be given the opportunity to sign a form indicating acceptance or rejection of the proposed dress code or school uniform.
 - 3.6 When support and approval for the adoption of a dress code or uniform is demonstrated to be the desire of a clear majority of families, the dress code or school uniform will then be included within the School Code of Conduct. For purposes of this policy, a clear majority is defined as 67% of families within the school community.
 - 3.7 The principal, in collaboration with the Catholic School Council, will address issues of affordability when a school uniform has been determined as appropriate dress for students in a school. In general, each school will assist families in difficult financial situations to acquire a school uniform.
4. COMPLIANCE
 - 4.1 Appropriate dress is a daily expectation of all students. Students who are found to be in violation may be reprimanded and required to go home and return to school with appropriate attire.
 - 4.2 Students who repeatedly are found to be in violation of the appropriate dress expectation will be disciplined according to the School Code of Conduct and may be suspended from attendance at school.
 - 4.3 In schools where a specified dress code or the adoption of a school uniform is the appropriate dress for the student. The principal shall allow for specified days each month when clothing may be washed or dry cleaned.
5. GENERAL
 - 5.1 This policy and regulations will be reviewed by the Board at least once every four years.
 - 5.2 Where a school policy has been established regarding appropriate dress, it shall be reviewed by the school council, students, parents, teachers and other community stakeholders at least once every four years.
 - 5.3 School expectations on appropriate dress will be published annually in the Parent-Student handbook.